

THE NORTHEAST-MIDWEST COALITION

## GREAT LAKES TASK FORCE

November 4, 2005

President George W. Bush  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to follow-up on the Great Lakes Interagency Task Force's *Report to the President on the Implementation of the Great Lakes Executive Order*. After reading the report, we are disappointed by the limitations placed on Regional Collaboration through this report.

When Regional Collaboration was initiated last year, nothing indicated that the Regional Collaboration Strategy needed to stay within current budget projections, and we were led to believe that the Administration would consider some new budget initiatives. A serious consideration of the challenges faced in the Great Lakes region requires a commitment of federal resources.


As you stated in the Executive Order, "the Great Lakes are a national treasure," and we were encouraged by the Administration's commitment to address the environmental and natural resource challenges of the Lakes through a "regional collaboration of national significance." The Great Lakes Regional Collaboration has brought together roughly 1,500 people who are dedicated to protecting and restoring the Great Lakes. All of these individuals contributed time and resources in order to develop a strategic, comprehensive strategy for the Great Lakes.

Meaningful Great Lakes restoration cannot happen without support from all levels of government, including the federal government. The states, municipalities, and tribal officials, as well as the individual participants, have provided tremendous support for Regional Collaboration. However, these efforts alone will not restore the Lakes. Each party must be willing to provide additional short and long-term commitments in the near future. The problems impacting the Great Lakes will only get worse over time, and the implementation of the solutions will only become more expensive.


We cannot wait to start restoring the Great Lakes to a healthy condition for future generations. The Great Lakes are vital to our cities', states' and nation's environment, economy and way of life. We appreciate your past support for improving the Great


Lakes and strongly urge that you maintain your commitment to the Great Lakes by not limiting restoration recommendations to the current budget projections.


Sincerely,


  
Mike DeWine, Co-Chair  
United States Senator


  
Carl Levin, Co-Chair  
United States Senator


  
John Dingell, Co-Chair  
Member of Congress


  
Vernon J. Ehlers, Co-Chair  
Member of Congress


  
Mark Kirk, Co-Chair  
Member of Congress


  
Louise Slaughter, Co-Chair  
Member of Congress

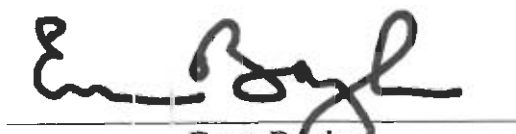
  
Russell D. Feingold  
United States Senator

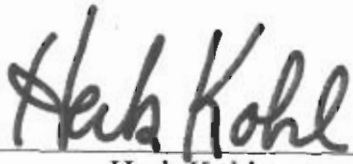
  
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator

  
George V. Voinovich  
United States Senator


  
Richard Durbin  
United States Senator

  
Barack Obama  
United States Senator

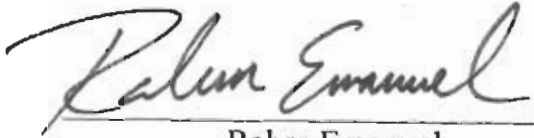
  
Evan Bayh  
United States Senator



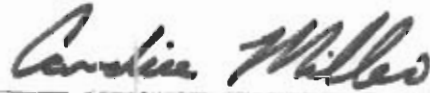
Herb Kohl  
United States Senator



Hillary Rodham Clinton  
United States Senator



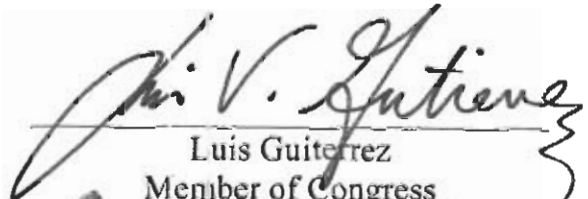
Rahm Emanuel  
Member of Congress



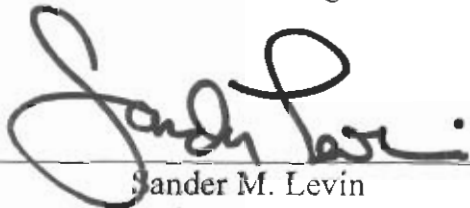
Candice Miller  
Member of Congress



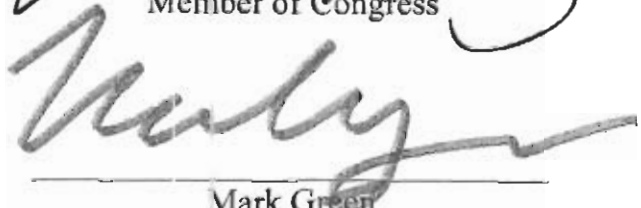
Fred Upton  
Member of Congress



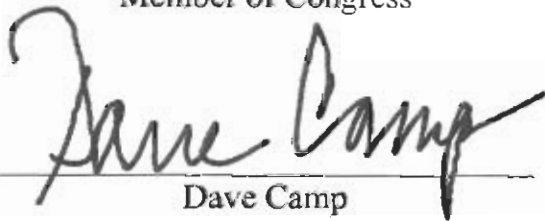
Luis Guterrez  
Member of Congress



Sander M. Levin  
Member of Congress



Mark Green  
Member of Congress



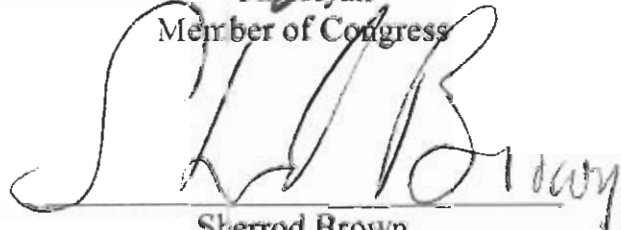
Dave Camp  
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress



Steven LaTourette  
Member of Congress



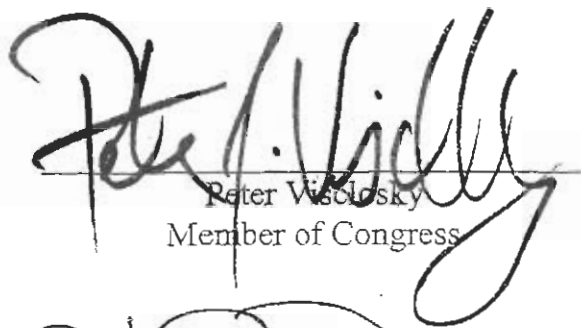
Sherrod Brown  
Member of Congress

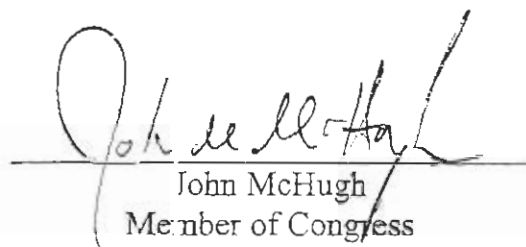


Bart Stupak  
Member of Congress

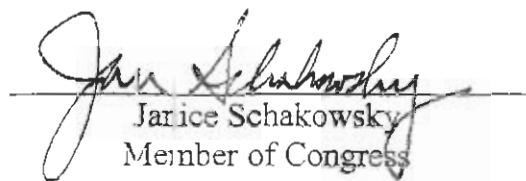


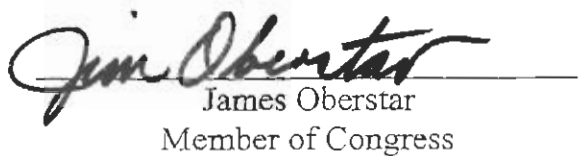
Dale Kildee  
Member of Congress

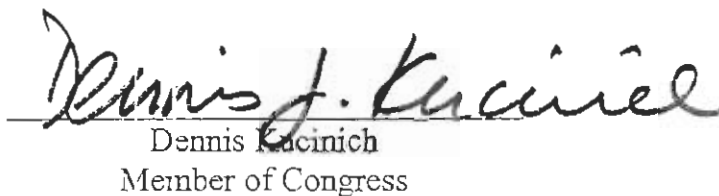
  
Peter Wislowsky  
Member of Congress

  
John McHugh  
Member of Congress

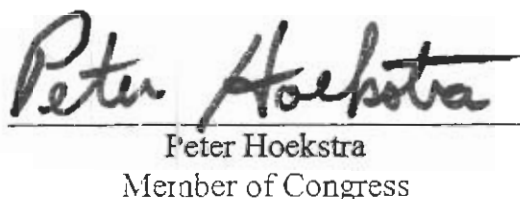
  
Mike Rogers MI-08  
Member of Congress

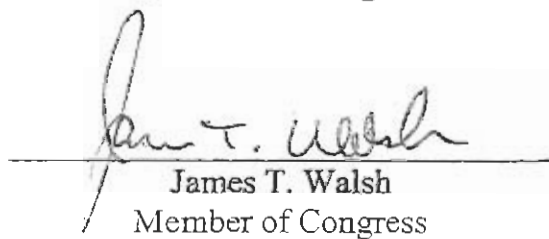
  
Janice Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

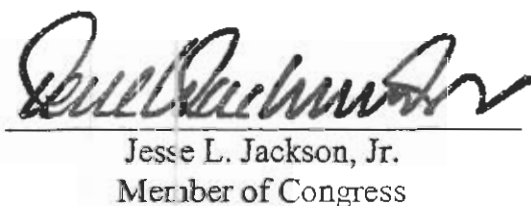
  
James Oberstar  
Member of Congress

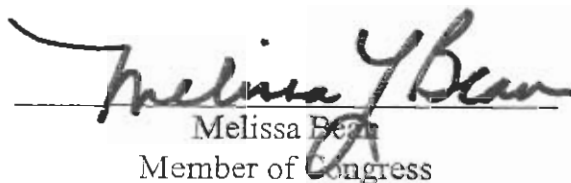
  
Dennis Kucinich  
Member of Congress

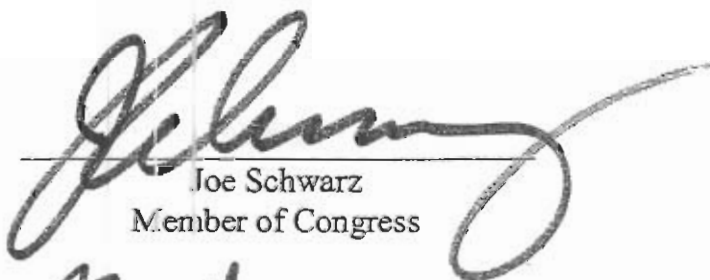
  
Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

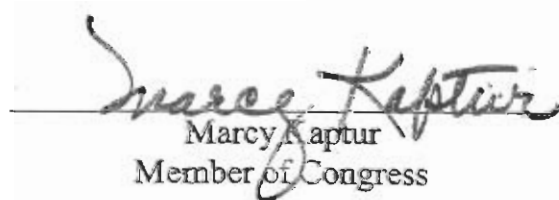
  
Peter Hoekstra  
Member of Congress

  
James T. Walsh  
Member of Congress

  
Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Melissa Bean  
Member of Congress

  
Joe Schwarz  
Member of Congress

  
Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress

  
Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

  
Mark Dayton  
United States Senator